



Headteacher's Newsletter

January 2021 ISSUE 1

Whitehall Infant School is a five star school with a FRESH approach. We provide five star learning for all, with family at the heart of everything we do. We teach our children to have respect at all times. We want our children to achieve excellence, whilst being safe and happy.



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are missing our lovely Whitehall Infant School community as the school is very quiet with only small groups of children and staff in school.

We are extending our sense of family as we make use of the devices to connect virtually, staff are keeping in touch with families and there are only a handful of families who we have not managed to connect with or hear from. It has been lovely to hear how you are all coping with this new National Lockdown.

Well done to our children for working hard on their learning at home. We can see that parents have engaged with the remote learning guidance that has been sent home.

Please remember to take care of yourself and stay safe and well during this time.

Manjit Bringan

STAY SAFE
together we will get through this

Communications sent out recently

05/01/21	Rapid testing available for all Hillingdon residents
06/01/21	Letter regarding partial school closure and remote learning

Current School Closure Information

As you are all aware, all schools are currently closed to the majority of children. We remain open only for the children of **critical workers** and **those children who fall in the Government's vulnerable category**.

I am sure parents will have lots of questions and concerns regarding this. **We recently emailed you a letter containing important information and answering some common questions.** A copy of this letter can also be found on our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus>

It is of upmost importance that everyone follows the current lockdown rules to allow us to return to normality as soon as possible. Please see a reminder of these rules on the last page of this newsletter.

Newsletters during this lockdown period will continue to be sent regularly and will contain information regarding remote learning and mental wellbeing along with any other important reminders.

When we receive further updates from the Government we will share these with you if it is relevant to do so.

School admissions September 2021

Applying for Reception

For children due to start Reception in September 2021, you **must** apply for Primary School by **15th January 2021** by visiting: <https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary>

Applying for Junior School

For children due to start Junior School in September 2021, you **must** apply for Junior School by **15th January 2021** by visiting: <https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/junior-school>

Applying for Nursery

Children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 are eligible to start our school Nursery in September 2021.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a Nursery place for your child, please follow the instructions to apply which are found on our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/admissions/nursery-1>.

We have also created a **Virtual Open Day** on our website which contains useful information regarding our school along with a video tour.

Contacting families

Staff will be calling families once a week. Some of these calls are being made at school but some staff are using their personal phones so the call may come from a 'withheld number'. If you miss a call from a member of staff, please do not call the school number in response as the staff member may be working from home. A member of staff will try to contact you again at a different time.

Please ensure we have at least 3 up to date contact numbers for your child. If you have changed any of your contact details (including email address), please let us know as soon as possible by emailing office@mail.whitehallinf.org.

Contacting the school

Please email office@mail.whitehallinf.org if you wish to contact us. We are running a reduced staffing model and the admin members of staff may not be able to answer calls.

Christmas Reading Competition

We hope your child enjoyed taking part in our Christmas Reading Competition over the holidays. Remember to upload photos of each book your child read over the holidays to Google Classroom by **Monday 11th January 2021**.

Every child who took part will receive a certificate and a prize will be given to the child in each year group who reads the most books once all children return to school.



Free School Meals

Children, who are not currently attending school and who have previously been confirmed as eligible for Free School Meals throughout their Primary school years, are eligible for a food package from the school in lieu of the school lunch they would have had if they were in school.

If you are in this category you will have already been contacted regarding this and emails will be sent weekly containing information on when to collect your child's food package. Food vouchers are not being issued as they were under the previous lockdown.

Magic Breakfast

For some time now, we have been supported by Magic Breakfast to provide breakfast to all children. We have received free bagels and breakfast provision from them and funding to ensure that all children are able to access breakfast (we do this by offering bagels at the start of the school day to all children in class and breakfast at our breakfast club).



Magic Breakfast have found that the financial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has put more demand on them to ensure no child goes hungry. They have been adapting the way they work to ensure children at risk of hunger continue to receive breakfast whether at school or home, and through the school holidays.

They will be continuing this intensive level of help in 2021, doubling the number of partner schools, working with them to combat child hunger and help children catch up on lost learning.

This demand has put a great pressure on Magic Breakfast and they are reaching out for donations.

To donate or for more information, visit <https://www.magicbreakfast.com/Appeal/the-i-christmas-appeal-2020>



In accordance with Government guidance, all PMG uniform stores are now closed.

However, you will still be able to order online with them for home delivery.

Visit https://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk/school/whitehallschool_uxbridge to order.

Resources for remote learning

Some parents have asked if we are able to provide resources to assist with remote learning. Unfortunately, we simply cannot do this as our budget has already been stretched due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and **there is no additional funding from the Government to purchase resources or equipment for Infant schools.**

We thought it would be useful for parents to have a list of resources that would help their child with home learning - I imagine many will be surprised to realise that they actually have most of these items at home already.

If you do not have these items at home, they can be purchased very cheaply online from websites such as Wilkinsons or Amazon. Alternatively, you can buy these items from most supermarkets when you are doing your food shopping!

Pencil	Paper
Ruler	Pencil Sharpener
Rubber	
Colouring pencils / felt tips / crayons	
Counters - these can be anything around the home from coins to dry pasta!	

If you do not have these resources or the funds to purchase these resources, please contact us and we will do our best to help you. **If you have spare resources that you would be happy to donate, please let us know so that we can pass these on to other families.**

Whitehall Value of Happiness

At Whitehall Infant School we embrace the 'Power of Positivity'. Therefore, we would like to celebrate all the positive things our Whitehall community takes part in.



If you or your family are helping the community, raising money for charity or anything else that shows community spirit, please email information to us on office@mail.whitehallinf.org.

Remote Learning

We hope you are all being able to access the Remote learning currently being set by teachers.

Remember, your child's login details for Google Classroom and Mathseeds / Reading Eggs can be found **inside their Reading Record**. If you are having trouble accessing the learning or have lost your child's login details, please email office@mail.whitehallinf.org as soon as possible.

Copies of our remote learning plan and the parents guide to remote learning along with other useful information can be found on our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-and-remote-education>

Online Safety

Please remember to **supervise** your child when they are online and manage how long they spend on a computer.

Our website contains some useful tips on how to keep your child safe when they are using the internet: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/curriculum/e-safety>

Children should not be using a computer for more than 30 minutes. Balance computer work with PE, creative work, play, etc.



Query: I don't have enough computers or tablets for everyone in my household. What can I do to ensure that all of my household can access their remote learning?

Answer: Did you know that you can access Google Classroom and other learning websites on an Xbox or Playstation?

For full instructions on how to do this, click on the below link to download our guide:

[Accessing Google Classroom on a Playstation or Xbox.](#)

PE with Joe Wicks



PE with Joe Wicks is returning on Monday 11th January!

He will be hosting 20 minute long PE lessons every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9am.

You can take part in his PE classes by visiting his Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
or just search 'PE with Joe' in the Youtube search bar.



BBC Delivers Biggest Education Offer in its history

- Starting on Monday, January 11, each week day on CBBC will see a three-hour block of primary school programming from 9am including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily.
- BBC Two will cater for secondary students with programming to support the GCSE curriculum, with a least two hours of content each weekday.
- Bitesize Daily primary and secondary will also air every day on BBC Red Button as well as episodes being available on demand on BBC iPlayer.

Action for Happiness Calendar

January

How can we start this new year happier? Things have certainly not been easy over the last year, and we are still in difficult and uncertain times. The best way to try to handle our emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control.

This month, Action for Happiness are encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for yourself and others around you - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

The below calendar is also available in a variety of different languages. If you require it in a different language, please visit <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/january>.




ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021




MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 <p>"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi</p>				1 Find three good things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day
4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others	8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why
11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	14 Take a different route today and see what you notice	15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community
18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss	20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge	21 Take a small step towards an important goal	22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment
25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently	29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way	30 Count how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

Happier · Kinder · Together

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW STRAIN OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
gov.uk/coronavirus